



CSC Certification Body Summary Audit Report 2020

Introduction

In January 2017, the Concrete Sustainability Council (CSC) launched its certification system for responsibly sourced concrete. The CSC is the Global System Operator, therefore maintains, and develops the international certification system, including the auditing software (“Toolbox”). A CSC-accredited Certification Body (CB) is the client’s key contact while undergoing certification. The CB manages the certification process: It assigns a qualified auditor to review the evidence provided by the client and to perform exemplary on-site audits. After the successful completion of the certification process, the CB issues the certificates and publishes them.

The CSC regularly conducts on-site audits of the Certification Bodies to ensure their compliance with the accreditation standards as set out in the CSC Technical Manual. This document is a summary report of the CB audits performed in 2020. The report is continuously updated.

Objective

The overall objectives of the audits are:

- Ensure the robustness of the CSC certification system.
- Ensure that the rigor to obtain CSC certification is comparable.
- Ensure that the certification process is comparable.
- Enhance the CSC certification system by receiving feedback from the CB directly

Execution

First, the CSC assesses the organizational process of the certification body through the following sub-items:

1. Training of auditors
2. Audit workflow description
3. Audit workflow checklist
4. Participation in global/harmonization meetings
5. On-site audit (required numbers, auditing process)

Next, the validations of the certification bodies are assessed in selected projects. This part is classified into the following sub-items:

1. Evidences: Prerequisites
2. Evidences: Exemplary Performance Credits
3. Evidences: Credits where publicly available information is required
4. Evidences: Credits where publicly available targets are required
5. Evidences: Supply chain credits
6. Evidences: Mandatory Credits

Lastly, the CSC provides a summary of both parts of the audit.

Key findings

Improvement opportunities for the CSC certification system

Continuous improvement of the CSC certification system, including its toolbox, is an important lever to improve the sustainability performance of CSC certified plants. The CSC also took the opportunity of a feedback discussion with the certification body to find further potential for improvement for the certification system and its toolbox.

The CSC also gained additional findings. The scope for interpretation was too wide in selected criteria, so that there were few misunderstandings between all parties involved (CB, customer, CSC). These criteria (e.g. M2.01, E2.01, S.4.09) will be improved by a clear description in the next revision of the Technical Manual in CSC V2.1.

Furthermore, the importance of the harmonization meetings was underlined by the CBs. It was suggested that participation by at least one representative of the CBs should be mandatory.

CB compliance with accreditation standard

Both CSC audits have shown that the respective certification bodies work in line with the CSC-CB agreement and the criteria defined in the CSC technical manual. The audits also confirmed the elevated certification know-how of the accredited CBs and their knowledge on concrete production and its chain of custody. The qualification of the CBs' auditors is ensured by internal auditor trainings. Minor deficiencies were jointly identified and promptly corrected.

Continuation: CB audits in 2020

The CSC will continue with the CB audits in 2020, it is planned to conduct two to three CB audits in the CSC key markets.

Berlin, 27.04.2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Andreas Tuan Phan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Andreas Tuan Phan